



STATE SENATOR **Wayne Kuipers**

30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



Bill Signed to Help Make University Research More Accessible to Job Providers

Legislation was recently signed that will help create more jobs by making innovative research and technologies generated by state universities more accessible to Michigan job providers. Public Act 367 of 2008 amends a portion of the 21st Century Jobs program to accelerate university technology transfer with a focus on technologies that will improve the bio-economy.

Technology transfer is the process of sharing research, knowledge, and skills among industries, universities and governments to ensure that scientific and technological developments are accessible to users for developing new products, applications, materials or services.

The measure will help:

- Identify commercial opportunities available in technologies developed at universities;
- Provide incentives for faculty who participate in the technology transfer program;
- Expand business formation efforts at the universities;
- Encourage companies to use the applied research expertise of the institutions; and
- Promote the bundling of inventions from various state universities.

Senate Legislation Strengthens Child Protection Laws

Senate Republicans recently introduced a five-bill package designed to strengthen the laws regarding the review of child death cases. This legislative package will improve communication between state and local agencies and the court system when a child dies while under the state's care.

Senate Bill 257 establishes a central registry of children's deaths accessible to the public. The registry would contain non-identifying statistical information compiled on the deaths of children while in foster care, under court jurisdiction, or after involvement with Child Protective Services.

The legislative package would also:

- Establish the Office of the Legislative Child Fatality Investigator within the Legislative Council to identify specific causes and systemic problems that contribute to the mortality of children in foster care;
- Require the Michigan Department of Human Services to immediately notify the court, the children's ombudsman and the Legislature when a child under court jurisdiction dies;

- Add a representative of a state or local court to the advisory committee and to the membership of a child fatality review team; and
- Specify that the department allow a court with jurisdiction of a child who dies access to all information pertaining to the child.

SBs 257 through 261 have been referred to the Senate Families and Human Services Committee for further consideration.